

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/849,032

Applicant(s)

SATO

Examiner

Susan S. Lee

Art Unit

2852

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 10/20/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-12 and 15-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

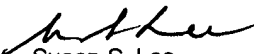
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with G. Luo (50,559) on 10/30/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Cancel claim 2.

As to claim 6, line 16, change "operating" to - - control - - because there is no previous recitation of an operating panel. This is also consistent with the amended language in claim 1, line 20.

As to claim 11, line 16, change "operating" to - - control - - because there is no previous recitation of an operating panel. This is also consistent with the amended language in claim 1, line 20.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1, 5, and 19 is the inclusion of a cover of an image forming device that is provided integrally with the control panel and that covers the image-scanning portion; and an original document supply tray disposed on a rear side of the image-scanning portion in front-to-rear direction at a slant to the horizontal for receiving an original document to be supplied to the image-scanning

portion. This in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claims is found in all of claims 1, 5, and 19, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 3, 4, 8-10, and 20-28 is the inclusion of a cover that is provided integrally with the control panel and that covers the image-scanning portion; and a recording medium discharging portion that discharges a recording medium in the rear-to-front direction, the recording medium discharging portion discharging a recording medium so that the trailing edge of the discharged recording medium is farther rearward than a rear end of the image scanning portion, while the leading edge of the discharged recording medium is farther forward than a front end of the image-scanning portion. This in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claims is found in all of claims 3, 4, 8-10, and 20-28, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 6 and 7 is the inclusion of a cover that is provided integrally with the control panel and that covers the image-scanning portion; an original document feeding unit that is disposed on a rear side of the image-scanning portion and that feeds an original document to the image-scanning portion; and an original document discharging unit that is disposed on the rear side of the image-scanning portion and below the original document feeding unit and that discharges an original document. This in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claims is found in all of claims 6 and 7, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 11 is the inclusion of a cover of an image forming device that is provided integrally with the control panel and that covers the image-scanning portion; and the image forming unit has a front cover at the front side thereof. The front cover opens and close to allow a developing device to be inserted to and removed from the image-forming unit through the opened cover. This in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claim is found in all of claim 11, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 12 and 15-18 is the inclusion of original document supply tray, the original document discharge tray, the recording medium discharge tray, the image-forming portion, and the recording medium supply tray arranged in a vertical alignment so that the direction in which the original document is conveyed in the image scanning portion, the direction in which the recording medium is conveyed in the image forming portion, and the direction in which the recording medium supply tray is attached and detached are substantially parallel with each other; and wherein the image forming portion is disposed below the recording medium discharge tray, and the recording medium supply tray is disposed below the image-forming portion. This in combination with the rest of the limitations of the claims is found in all of claims 12 and 15-18, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably


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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on 571-272-2119 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852